

Message Text

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47

ACTION SS-25

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----- 114604

O P 031232Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4186
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 12039

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS. GR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH SEISMIC VESSEL: BRITISH POLICY

REFERENCE: STATE 190362

1. DURING ROUTINE DISCUSSION OF ISSUE OF TURKISH SEISMIC VESSEL WITH EMBOFF ON AUGUST 2, GOODISON, HEAD OF FCO SOUTHERN EUROPE DEPARTMENT, SAID BRITISH POLICY HAS BEEN TO RESIST PRESSURE FROM EITHER THE GREEKS OR THE TURKS TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON BEHALF OF EITHER ONE TO THE OTHER, AND "CONFINE OURSELVES TO URGING CAUTION AND PRUDENCE ON BOTH SIDES." MOST RECENT FCO POLICY INSTRUCTION SPECIFIES THAT "HMG SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN SUBSTANCE OF THIS DISPUTE." BRITISH HAVE INFORMED EC-9 OF THIS POSITION. WHEN VAN DER STOEL SENT A TELEGRAM TO HIS EC PARTNERS ASKING WHETHER HE SHOULD MAKE A DEMARCHE IN ANKARA ON BEHALF OF THE NINE, BRITISH ON JULY 22 REPLIED THAT UK BELIEVES THE NINE SHOULD AVOID BECOMING INVOLVED OR TAKING SIDES IN THIS DISPUTE. DEMARCHE CONTEMPLATED BY VAN DER STOEL WOULD LOOK AS IF THE NINE WERE TAKING THE SIDE OF THE GREEKS AND HARDEN TURKISH RESOLVE. BRITISH
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MESSAGE CONCLUDED THAT MOST RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY

BOTH SIDES INDICATE THAT THEY ARE SEEKING TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF BELLICOSITY. SUBSEQUENTLY, VAN DER STOEL INFORMED BRITISH THAT IN VIEW OF THE VARIOUS REACTIONS HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE NINE, HE WOULD NOT ACT ON THEIR BEHALF AS SUGGESTED.

2. COMMENT: IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO VAN DER STOEL (REFTEL), WHICH FCO HAD APPARENTLY NOT YET RECEIVED FROM THE HAGUE, WILL ALTER THE POSITION OF HMG ON THIS MATTER. ARMSTRONG

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